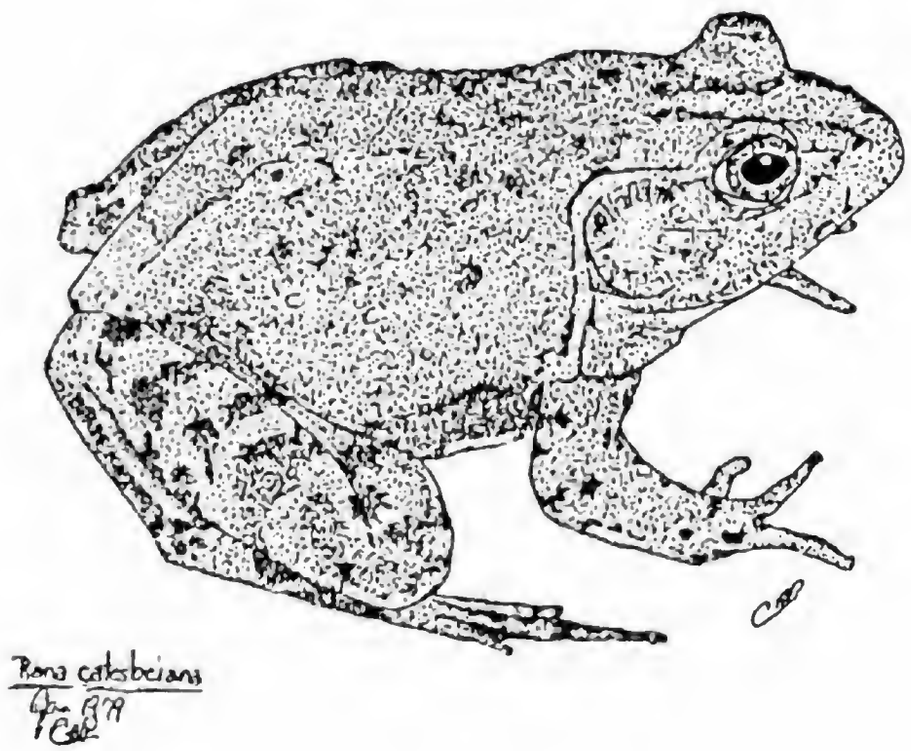
CATESBEIANA



BULLETIN OF THE VIRGINIA HERPETOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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BULLETIN INFORMATION

Catesbeiana is issued twice a year by the Virginia Herpetological Society. Membership is open to all individuals interested in the study of amphibians and reptiles and includes a subscription to *Catesbeiana* and admission to all meetings.

Dues are $10.00 per year and include a subscription to *Catesbeiana* numbers 1 and 2 for that year. Dues are payable to: Ronald Southwick, Secretary-Treasurer, 408 Franklin Drive, Blacksburg, VA 24060.

EDITORIAL POLICY

The principle function of *Catesbeiana* is to publish observations and original research about Virginia herpetology. Rarely will articles be reprinted in *Catesbeiana* after they have been published elsewhere. All correspondence relative to suitability of manuscripts or other editorial considerations should be directed to Co-editors, *Catesbeiana*, Department of Biology, Liberty University, Box 20,000, Lynchburg, VA 24506.

Major Papers

Manuscripts being submitted for publication should be typewritten (double spaced) on good quality 8½ by 11 inch paper, with adequate margins. Consult the style of articles in this issue for additional information. Articles will be refereed by at least one officer (past or present) of the Virginia Herpetological Society in addition to the editor. All changes must be approved by the author before publication; therefore manuscripts must be submitted well in advance of the March or September mailing dates.

Reprints of articles are not available to authors; however, authors may reprint articles themselves to meet professional needs.

(Editorial policy continued on inside back cover.)

CATESBEIANA

Bulletin of the Virginia Herpetological Society

Volume 13 Spring 1993 No. 1

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MEETING NOTICE

The Spring 1993 VHS meeting will be held on 16-18 April 1993 at Prince William Forest Park. See page 22 for details.

R H Ragcot

An Annotated Checklist of Reptiles and Amphibians from Highland County, Virginia.

David A. Young
4612 Albert Court, Apt. 102
Va. Beach, VA 23455

Highland County is located in the northwestern part of Virginia, and is bordered by Bath County to the south, Augusta County to the east, and West Virginia to the north and west. The major roads are U.S. 220 and U.S. 250 which intersect in the town of Monterey.

During 1984 - 1990, I traveled every hard surface road exploring this beautiful county. Highland County is in the Ridge and Valley physiographic province. At the western corner of the county the mountains change from typical Tuscarora sandstone to a much older Silurian sandstone capped with Devonian Shale (Frye, 1986). Here the mountains are contoured much differently since the sandstone is older and more worn. The area may best be described as Appalachian Plateau.

Most of the forest is second growth mixed hardwood on the eastern half of the county. Red-spruce, yellow birch, and sugar maple make up the ridge tops in the western portion of the county, with hemlock and white pine in moist areas. Three rivers flow through the county: the Bullpasture, Cowpasture, and Jackson rivers, as well as Back Creek and the South Branch of the Potomic River.

In 1989, I received a grant from The Virginia Herpetological Society. My main interest was to study the rare mountain earth snake, and to compile a list of other herp fauna encountered in Highland County.

Methods

The methods used included checking beneath debris in fields, streams, and road cuts, road cruising after sunset and heavy rains, with dipnetting and Chickenwire funnel turtle traps to sample aquatic habitats.

Reptiles and Amphibians Collected from Highland Co., VA, 1984 - 1990.

Codes for Table 1

* = Species found in survey

** = New County record according to Toby, F.J. 1985. Virginia's Amphibians and Reptiles: A Distributional Survey. Virginia Herpetological Society.

\# = New subspecies for the state.

Salamanders

* *Desmognathus f. fuscus* - Northern Dusky Salamander. The Northern Dusky salamander is common all over the county and found in all rocky streams by raking debris. Individuals were found every year from 1984 to 1989.

* *Desmognathus m. monticola* - Appalachian Seal Salamander. Seal salamanders were found in all medium and steep high elevation streams. They were first caught on 2 August 1984, 3.5 km west of Mill Gap and are found in eastern and northern steep streams.

* *Desmognathus ochrophaeus* - Mountain Dusky Salamander. Mountain dusky salamanders are common at all high elevation mountain tops (Alleghany, Lantz, and Buck Knob Mountains) where they live in terrestrial habitats under logs and leafpiles.

* *Eurycea bislineata* - Northern Two-Lined Salamander. Northern two-lined salamanders were caught in all aquatic habitats sampled.

* *Eurycea l. longicauda* - Longtailed Salamander. Long-tailed salamanders were collected in a junk pile next to a stream, and in a cave in the middle of the county. They are common where found. Specimens were also picked up road cruising near Bluegrass, on 10 June 1987 and 23 June 1989.

* *Eurycea lucifuga* - Cave Salamander. Cave salamanders were found in a cave near Williamsville on 23 June 1989, approximately 3 m inside the entrance. Only one animal was found.

* *Gyrinophilus porphyriticus* - Spring Salamander. Spring salamanders were found at all elevations in seepage areas and quiet stream pools. They were sometimes seen out in the open in the daytime. Individuals were collected each time the county was surveyed.

Pseudotriton r. ruber - Northern Red Salamander. Red salamanders were not found in my six year survey. However, likely and suitable habitat does occur in many areas throughout the county, and continued surveying is recommended whenever herpetologists are in the area.

* *Plethodon cinereus* - Red-Backed Salamander. Red-backed salamanders were collected only on Alleghany Mountain and the Locust Springs area on 3 June 1986.

** *Plethodon cylindraceus* - White-Spotted Slimy Salamander. White-spotted slimy salamanders were found only in the eastern and central parts of the county at low elevations. One animal was picked up road cruising during a hard rain in 1986 and again in 1987. Additional specimens were found in a woodpile on June 1989.

* *Plethodon glutinosus* - Northern Slimy Salamander. The "true" slimy is found in the western portion of the county on Alleghany Mountain and Locust Springs. They were most common in high elevation spruce forests.

* *Plethodon hoffmani* - Valley and Ridge Salamander. This is a medium and high elevation species found on Alleghany Mountain and the Locust Springs area. They were common where found.

* *Plethodon wehrlei* - Wehrle's Salamander. Wehrle's salamander lives only at high elevations. They were first found on 2 August

1984 on Alleghany Mountain. In 1989 one animal was found in Locust Springs Campground and a population was still well established on Alleghany Mountain at that time.

Frogs

** *Hyla versicolor* - Eastern Gray Treefrog. One male was found calling in a bush overhanging a tank trap on the western slope of Shenandoah mountain in the eastern part of the county on 23 June 1989, South of Headwaters.

* *Pseudacris crucifer* - Spring Peeper. Spring peepers were found on Co. Rt. 616 near Headwaters on 23 June 1989.

** *Rana clamitans melanota* - Green Frog. Only one specimen was encountered, on the west side of Shenendoah Mountain near Headwaters on 24 June 1989.

** *Rana sylvatica* - Wood Frog. I collected only 1 specimen hopping around in the rain in Locust Springs campground.

Turtles

* *Chrysemys p. picta* - Eastern Painted Turtle. Several were observed, but only one collected. The animal collected was on Co. Rt. 614 next to the Cowpasture river on 25 June 1989.

* *Pseudemys concinna* - River Cooter. None were found, but the species has been recorded from the county. (J. C. Mitchell, pers. comm.)

* *Chelydra serpentina* - Snapping Turtle. One specimen was found DOR by A. Pague (pers. comm.) near Headwaters in June 1990.

Lizards

* *Eumeces anthracinus* - Coal Skink. Found by A. Pague pers. comm.) in June 1989 on Sapling Ridge.

Sceloporus undulatus hyacinthinus - Northern Fence Lizard. One specimen was seen on a farmers fence post near the Bullpasture river near McDowell, however, the animal escaped capture.

Snakes

** *Coluber c. constrictor* - Northern Black Racer. Only one animal was found in a junk pile near the center of the county on 23 June 1989.

* *Diadophis punctatus edwardsii* - Northern Ringneck Snake. This species is widespread throughout the county at all elevations in road cuts and cable crossings, under rocks and debris. Numerous indivudulas were found each year of the study.

* *Lampropeltis t. triangulum* - Northern Milk Snake. Milk snakes were collected at all elevations in road cuts and junk piles. They were first collected on 2 August 1984, and then each following year.

* *Nerodia s. sipedon* - Northern Water Snake. Water snakes were found in all major waterways at low elevations.

* *Opheodrys vernalis* - Smooth Green Snake. Several were found in two high elevation balds on Alleghany and Lantz Mountains on 3 June 1986.

* *Crotalus h. horridus* - Timber Rattlesnake. Timber rattlesnakes were found in Highland Co. by C. Mitchell (pers. comm.) in 1985.

** *Storeria o. occipitomaculata* - Northern Redbellied Snake. Redbellied snakes were caught on Lantz Mountain in road cuts on 3 June 1986 and 26 June 1989.

* *Thamnophis s. sirtalis* - Eastern Garter Snake. This species is county-wide at all elevations. Seventeen were caught under one large rock in a road cut on U.S. 250 on 3 June 1986.

\# *Virginia valeriae pulchra* - Mountain Earth Snake. During the survey in 1989 no specimens were found. However I did find the first confirmed specimen on 3 June 1986 in a road cut on Lantz Mountain. This represents a new subspecies for the state and confirms an earlier unvouchered observation (Mitchell, 1991).

Summary

Highland and many other counties in our Commonwealth are in need of research. I urge all interested persons to perform surveys and take field notes. A good photograph of each specimen with the exact locality of each collection os required to voucher a species occurance. I would be more than willing to offer my help, so please don't hesitate to contact me.

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank the following individuals and organizations for their cooperation and support during the course of this study: The Virginia Herpetological Society, the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, the National Park Service, the Division of State Parks, the U.S. Forest Service, the Virginia Museum Natural History, Joseph C. Mitchell, Chris A. Pague and Kurt A. Buhlmann.

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Frye, 1986. Roadside Geology of Virginia. Mountain Press Publishing Co., Missoula, MT.

Mitchell, V.C., 1991. Mountain Earth Snake, *Virginia Valeriae Pulchra* - pp. 461 - 462 *In* K. Terwilliger (Coordinator), Virginia's Endangered Species. MacDonald and Woodward Publishing Co., Blacksburg, VA.

Toby, F.J. 1985. Virginia's Amphibians and Reptiles, A Distributional Survey. Virginia Herpetological Society, Purcellville, VA.

FIELD NOTES

Plethodon hubrichti (Peaks of Otter Salamander): Bedford County, VA. Behavioral observations on the movement of individuals.

During a mark/recapture study on *P. hubrichti* in 1991 we observed very limited movements by individual salamanders. The average distance observed for recaptures (N = 24) was 1.0 meter. This finding supports the observation that *P. hubrichti* has never yet been observed on the Blue Ridge Parkway (Joe Mitchell, pers. comm.) which is the major road through their limited range. This had led to the hypothesis that the Parkway and possibly smaller logging roads could subdivide the range, fragment the population by isolating populations, and threaten the species through the effects of inbreeding and reduced genetic variation. That medium to large roads can restrict salamander movement has been observed for the closely related *P. nettingi* (Cheat Mountain salamander) (Thomas Pauley, pers. comm). With this history, our recent observations of *P. hubrichti* on roads and in parking lots of the Blue Ridge Parkway appear worthy of reporting.

On 5 September 1992 at approximately 9 p.m. one *P. hubrichti* was observed in the middle of FS 736 approximately 50 meters SW of FS 5067. Since the salamander was in the middle of the approximately 2 meter wide gravel road it appears likely that salamanders can cross them.

On 23 September 1992 at approximately 11 p.m. another *P. hubrichti* was observed, this time on the east side of the Sunset Field parking lot heading west. If the salamander had traveled in a straight line it had already crossed the Parkway, coming from the east, and at least a portion of the grassy medium between the Parkway and parking lot. If it had not traveled in a straight line, it must have already crossed the parking lot and was then returning to the west side. In either case, its location could not have been reached without crossing either the Parkway or the parking lot, which is at least as wide as the Parkway.

Later that same night at about midnight, another *P. hubrichti* was observed near the parking lot on the west side of the Parkway pointing west. If it had traveled in a straight line it had just crossed the Parkway coming from the east. Three additional salamanders were observed on the west side of the parking lot pointing east as if they had just entered the parking lot.

FIELD NOTES

These observations contradict our earlier observations from the mark/recapture study of limited movements. They suggest that logging roads and even the Parkway do not make unpassable barriers and may be crossed at least occasionally. It is not clear whether these movements are normal or seasonal. It also points out the importance of direct nighttime observations of nocturnal salamanders to describe normal behavior.

Paul Sattler and Mike Hayslett
Liberty University
Lynchburg, VA 24506

Ambystoma opacum (Marbled Salamander): VA: Botetourt Co., 0.65 km SW of the intersection of Co. Rt. 701 and 736, 5 September 1992, Michael S. Hayslett.

While visiting my parents' rural home in northern Botetourt county on the evening of 5 September 1992, my father captured a medium-sized marbled salamander. This serendipitous discovery occurred around 10 p.m. as a result of the animal having scaled a verticle, 60 cm-high patio in its nocturnal movements. Noting the distributional significance of the find, and that the seasonal and weather conditions were appropriate for marbled breeding migration, I excused myself for a road search at 11 p.m.

There had been rains earlier in the day, the ground and pavement was damp, and the air was foggy and humid at 20°C. During the course of a two-hour search, a total of 10 other marbled salamanders were discovered, unfortunately 8 of those were DOR. The first DOR was approximately 0.85 km SW of the intersection of Co. Rt. 701 and 736 where 2 *Eurycea cirrigera* and 2 *Notopthalmus viridescens* (red efts) were also observed as they crossed the wet asphalt. The second DOR, an *A. opacum* also found on Co. Rt. 701 approximately 0.55 km SW of the intersection with 736. In the immediate vicinity of the intersection, I found 6 more DOR *A. opacum* and 2 live animals. The 3 live salamanders out of the 11 total were males, each with enlarged cloacal areas.

These observations and a previous *Ambystoma maculatum* encounter (*Catesbeiana*, 12(2):46) imply that this is a significant migration corridor for breeding ambystomid salamanders. A search for the *Ambystoma*

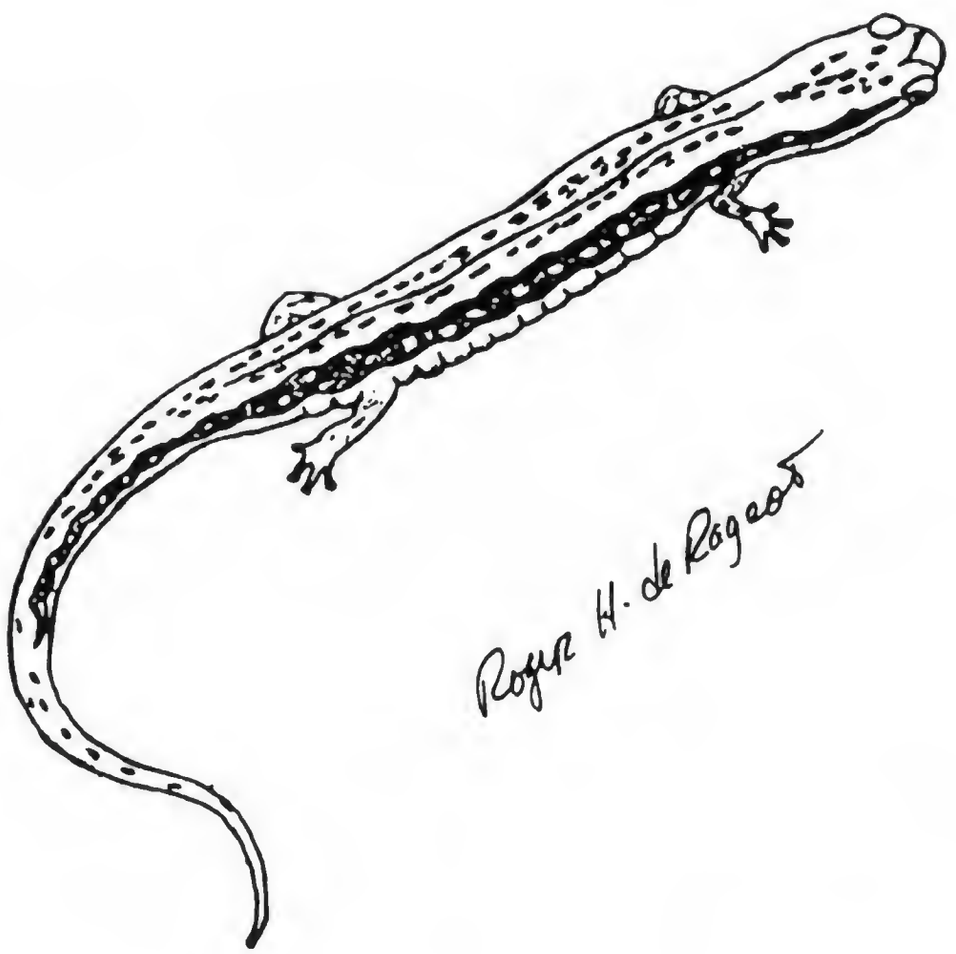
breeding site will continue. These 11 *A. opacum* represent a new county record for the species (cf. Tobey, 1985, Virginia's Amphibians and Reptiles, p. 38). One specimen from 0.65 km SW of the intersection of Co. Rt. 701 and 736 will be deposited in a national museum as a voucher specimen.

Michael S. Hayslett
Liberty University
P.O. Box 20000
Lynchburg, VA 24506-8001

Opheodrys aestivus (Rough Green Snake): VA: Campbell Co., 1.57 km N of the intersection of Co. Rt. 670 and 677, 15 May 1990, Benjamin Sattler.

During an inventory of the Liberty University Natural History Museum a new county record for *Opheodrys aestivus* was discovered. While accompanying his father on a Vertebrate Natural History class outing, Ben Sattler netted a Rough Green snake in the grass on the earthen dam along the Northern shore of Lake Hydaway on Candler Mountain. This specimen predates several other specimens in the LUNHM collection for this species in Campbell County and represents a new county record (cf. Tobey, 1985, Virginia's Amphibians and Reptiles, p. 88). The voucher speciment will be directed to a national museum for disposition.

Michael S. Hayslett
Liberty University
P.O. Box 20000
Lynchburg, VA 24506-8001


Roger H. de Rogaot

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

As many of you know, the U.S. Endangered Species Act (ESA) comes up for reauthorization in about September 1993. It actually expired in September 1992, but, because that was an election year, Congress extended it for 12 months under the existing provisions. Reauthorization this time will not be easy. There are powerful forces working hard to either defeat the reauthorization of the ESA or weaken the Act in some way. Most people think that the ESA will be reauthorized in some form, but the real question is, will it be strengthened, weakened, or remain in a similar state.

The ESA was passed in its present form by Congress in 1972 and took effect in early 1973. Since that time there have been nearly 600 species added to the list and categorized as either endangered or threatened. Here in Virginia, all the sea turtles that use the Chesapeake Bay for summer foraging grounds were afforded protection at that time. The only other amphibian or reptile in Virginia to have received federal protection under the ESA has been the Shenandoah salamander (*Plethodon shenandoah*) found only in Shenandoah National Park. It was added to the official list as endangered in 1989.

There have been a number of success stories under implementation of the ESA. One of the most notable is the American alligator. It was on the brink of extinction in many areas, but protection of wetlands and elimination of hunting allowed it to come back so well that limited harvest is now allowed in Florida and Louisiana. Alligators are no longer threatened with extinction and have been delisted. Other success stories include the bald eagle, brown pelican, whooping crane, and several species of whales.

One of the objectives of the ESA is to bring endangered species back from the brink of extinction by a series of recovery processes. Recovery plans are usually drafted and years of research, habitat protection, restoration, captive breeding (when necessary), and other measures are undertaken so that the species can be removed from the official list of endangered and threatened species. Unfortunately, not many species have been delisted, because the threats are still there.

One of the benefits of protection and recovery of a species listed under the ESA is the protection of its natural habitat. The single most important cause of species extinction is loss of habitat. The ESA helps to protect not only the species in question, but a portion of the landscape with a natural ecosystem that contains much more than the focal species. Habitat protection of one species helps to protect the future of many other species in that ecosystem. The spotted owl controversy in the Pacific northwest is not just about the protection of the spotted owl and

loss of timber jobs. It's about the protection of sufficient habitat for all the plants and animals that live in virgin (old growth) forests in the area. It's about the protection of many species of salamanders, some of which are about to be formally recognized as full species. Timber jobs, by the way, have been lost more from mechanization and the sale of unprocessed logs to Japan, than to the protection of the spotted owl.

Most Americans, as shown by polls, support the ESA in some form. Most, however, have not been personally affected, like some loggers in Oregon and Washington. There is truth to the saying that, as long as it is not in my backyard, it's OK. Once it does affect someone personally, however, the ESA can take on a different appearance. A case in point is the protection of the Texas blind salamander, a fish, and several plants in two springs near San Antonio. A federal judge has ordered this city and others using the Edwards Aquifer to cut their water usage so that adequate levels can be maintained in the springs. One newspaper report put the mandatory reduction at about 60%. How would you like it if you were required to cut your water consumption that much? We could all stand to reduce our water use by some amount and could probably adapt to about half of what we now use. The point is, these people are more likely now to oppose reauthorization of the ESA, whereas many of them would probably have supported it before the water problem came about. This is only one example of how opposition can mount against a very popular set of federal laws that help protect our valuable natural resources.

In addition to forces gathering strength to oppose reauthorization of the ESA, there are forces gathering strength to support reauthorization of the ESA. An organization called "The Endangered Species Coalition" has been formed to do just that. This coalition is made up of scientific societies and environmental grassroots organizations. The VHS is a corresponding member of this organization, and I will be attending a series of meetings and workshops organized by this group in early spring. I will report on this meeting and ESA reauthorization progress to VHS members later this year.

If you would like more information on The Endangered Species Coalition or the Endangered Species Act itself, please write to Elizabeth Saxton, Endangered Species Grassroots Coordinator, Defenders of Wildlife, 1244 19th Street N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036. She is a graduate of the University of Richmond, and will also be able to give you information on what Defenders of Wildlife is doing to help with reauthorization.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

The VHS supports reauthorization of the U.S. Endangered Species Act. Past and present VHS members have worked hard to protect our native amphibians and reptiles from declining to the brink of extinction. Our long-term motto is "Conservation, Education, and Research." We should all be willing to do our part to keep our fauna from future decline. I will be asking you at a later date to write individual letters to your representatives in the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate in order to stress the importance of a strengthened ESA to future generations. Please be willing to do your part.

There are numerous books and magazines on the commercial market that have tons of information about the Endangered Species Act, endangered species, and many stories about wildlife, including amphibians and reptiles. You can find most of these in any major book store. One book in particular that has appeared recently is a gold mine of information about how the natural world works and why it is important to save all species. The author of this book, Edward O. Wilson, has calculated a modern rate of species loss at 3 per hour! I urge all of you to read this book. It is not only good natural history, it is good writing.

The Diversity of Life by E.O. Wilson, Harvard University Press, copyright 1992. $29.95 hardback. Most book stores carry it.

Another publication that may be of interest is the February edition of Virginia Wildlife. This issue is devoted exclusively to "nongame" species and contains information on Virginia's amphibians and reptiles, as well as the kinds of research being conducted with taxpayer donation money. Order it from the Education Division, VA Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, P.O. Box 11104, 4010 West Broad St., Richmond, VA 23230-1104, and send them $1.00.

Joseph C. Mitchell
President, VHS
19 February 1993

Obituary

Robert N. Bader (1947-1992)

Robert N. Bader, past President of VHS, was accidentally killed on 28 February 1992 in Bali, Indonesia. Bob was among the group of dedicated VHS members that reorganized the society in 1980. He served as President from 1982 to 1985. Those members who attended meetings in the early 1980s remember the excellent spring field trip meeting in 1981 at South Isle Plantation, where Bob lived and worked. Bob contributed much to the VHS and to herpetology in general. He authored one paper on the herps of South Isle Plantation in Charlotte County for *Catesbeiana* (1984, Vol. 4, No. 1) and helped to discover the mole salamander (*Ambystoma talpoideum*) in Virginia, on which he and I published a note in Herpetological Review (1982, Vol. 13, No. 1). Bob contributed several important specimens to science and gave numerous talks to school kids in central Virginia. Although Bob faded from herpetology in the late 1980s, his legacy in Virginia will be his education of kids about amphibians and reptiles. Bob is survived by Mary Eve Bader, four children, a sister, and a brother. Long-time friend Ben Greishaw, himself a member of VHS, has written the following about Bob Bader. (JCM)

In Memory of Bob Bader

Nearly one year ago, I received the news that Bob Bader had been killed in an auto accident. Apparently, he lost control of his moped and slid into the path of an oncoming vehicle. I was initially struck with a deep sense of loss over the death of a friend who had accompanied me on so many occasions to herpetological meetings throughout the country.

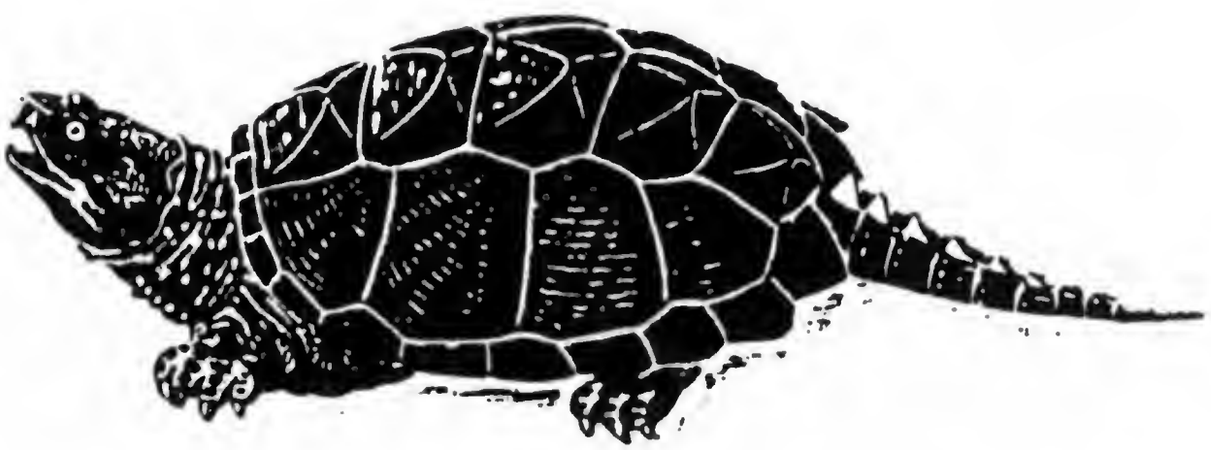
Bob's contributions to the area of herpetology are certainly worthy of mention. His discovery of a population of *Ambystoma talpoideum*, of which I had grateful occasion to share, extended the range of this species significantly. His attention to detail in the description of a subspecies of *Malaclemys terrapin* pointed to a larger population of the subspecies *rhizophorarum* than had previously thought. His photo of the first terrapin he found (in a Florida seafood shop) appears in Ray Ashton's Handbook of Reptiles and Amphibians of Florida, Part 2.

My herpetological sculptures first appeared at the SSAR/HL meetings in Knoxville, Tennessee, in 1979, carried to the meeting

personally by Bob. The following year he and I made the trip from central Virginia to Milwaukee, Wisconsin, where I officially exhibited my work to an appreciative and interested audience for the first time. The friendships and clients which have resulted from these meetings has certainly improved the quality of my life. I am grateful for the opportunities that Bob's introductions have afforded me.

It would be an unfortunate error to overlook the interest and enthusiasm that drove Bob Bader to invest so much of himself in the study of amphibians and reptiles.

Ben Greishaw, Richmond, VA.



President Joe Mitchell opened the business meeting at 11:05 am. Fourteen members were in attendance. After introductions, Secretary/Treasurer Ron Southwick gave the treasurer's report. A total of $2377.44 was in the treasury and the current VHS membership was at 121.

Editor's Reports

Paul Satuler reported that 170 copies of *Catesbeiana* No. 2 were printed and 120 mailed out. Paul said he already had two articles for the next issue, but could use more material.

Doug Eggleston announced that he would have to resign as Newsletter Editor because of other commitments. Doug said he would put the next Newsletter together (January 1993).

Old Business

The VHS poster was discussed. Joe asked Ron Southwick and Sue Bruenderman to contact Suzie Gilley (VDGIF) to check on the status of funds for the poster.

New Business

Joe reported that the Amphibian and Reptile Committee put together for the Virginia Endangered Species book was still active and looking for additional members if anyone was interested. In light of the Newsletter Editor's resignation. Joe asked for a consensus of members present whether or not the newsletter was needed and if it should continue. The majority of the members felt the newsletter was needed and should continue.

President Mitchell and VHS members present thanked Doug Eggleston for his service to VHS as newsletter editor. Joe also thanked The Blue Ridge Herpetological Society for bringing their captive herps and providing a workshop for the public.

President-elect Sue Bruenderman requested that the membership reconsider her being president and asked to resign. Sue felt that there may be some conflict with her current job with the VDGIF. Richard Hoffman made a motion to accept Sue's resignation which was carried by the membership present. A number of prospective candidates were

mentioned and a search for a new President-elect will be pursued. Sue volunteered to take over as the Newsletter Editor and was appointed to that position by President Mitchell.

The business meeting was adjourned at 11:50 am.

General Business

James and Della Organ became Life members of the VHS. Dr. and Mrs. Organ presently reside in New Jersey and plan to move to Virginia in the near future and make their home near Mt. Rogers.

Ron Southwick and Sue Bruenderman gave updates on the recently passed regulations pertaining to herps, and the status of a proposed herp breeders' permit.

A copy of Virginia's Endangered Species book (donated by the VDGIF) was raffled off. The raffle generated $33.00 for the VHS and the book was won by Kevin Harris.

The location and date of the Spring 1993 meeting will be announced later.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ron Southwick
Secretary and Treasurer

VIRGINIA HERPETOLOGICAL SOCIETY
TREASURER'S REPORT
Fall 1992 Meeting

The balance in the treasury reported at the Spring 1992 Meeting was $2348.17.

Expenditures since that time included:

4/11/92 ck. #129	Spring meeting expenses	$ 40.00
6/05/92 ck. #001	Newsletter 2:4 and Postage	163.31
6/19/92 ck. #002	Postage & Mailing Labels	36.44
9/24/92 ck. #003	*Catesbeiana* and Postage	243.40
	Check charge	.75
Total Expenditures		$483.90
Receipts from dues		$196.50
	Raffle & Auction (Spring meeting)	296.00
	Interest	20.67
Total Receipts		$513.17
Balance in checking as of 10/23/92		$2377.44

The Society has a current membership of 121 members.

Respectfully submitted,

Ron Southwick
Secretary and Treasurer

SPRING 1993 MEETING OF THE VIRGINIA HERPETOLOGICAL SOCIETY

The Spring 1993 meeting of the VHS will be held on 16-18 April 1993 at Prince William Forest Park (PWFP). This 3 day field trip meeting will provide the VHS a unique opportunity to participate in a survey of Loudon County for the state threatened wood turtle, *Clemmys insculpta* The survey, sponsored by the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, will be free of charge for everyone, thanks to funds received from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (all travel costs will be reimbursed; all meals and lodging free of charge. NOTE: YOU MUST RETAIN ALL RECEIPTS, so that we can reimburse you). Please come and join in the fun, while simultaneously contributing to the protection and conservation of this rare turtle species. **Please remember to bring your cameras!**

Meeting Place: Cabin Camp 1, PWFP - see directions which follow.

Schedule:

	Friday, April 16
12:00 - 1:00	Early arrivals
1:00 - 2:00	Initial planning - wood turtle survey
2:00 - 5:00	Initial forays
5:00 - 7:30	Supper (provided)
7:30 - 9:30	Business meeting; wood turtle survey training and planning session
9:30 - ???	On your own (night foray for frogs and salamanders? your choice)
	Saturday, April 17
7:30 - 9:00	Breakfast (provided)
9:00 - 5:00	Wood turtle survey/alternative field trips (bag lunches provided); daytime hikes in PWFP
5:00 - 7:30	Supper at PWFP (provided)
7:30 - 9:00	Compile collected data; regroup/plan for Sunday
9:00 - ???	On your own
	Sunday, April 18
7:30 - 9:00	Breakfast (provided)
9:00 - 12:00	Continue wood turtle survey
12:00 - 1:00	Lunch at PWFP (provided)
1:00 - 2:30	Compile data; go home!

Agenda:

This is a field trip meeting, so wear your hiking clothes and be prepared for wet and cool weather. Be prepared for a true "rustic" experience -

there is no heat in the cabins and space heaters are not allowed (fire hazard rule). The cabins have beds with mattresses, so with a good sleeping bag you should stay warm. The dining hall has a fireplace, as well as refrigerator and large stove. The food will be provided, but please bring eating utensils and cooking gear with you. There are several bath houses at the park.

On Friday night, we will show slides of wood turtles and will familiarize everyone with what to look for during our search. On Saturday and Sunday, we will break into groups of three or four (depending on number of people attending), each of which will be led by someone familiar with wood turtles and their habitat. Someone in each party should volunteer to drive your group to your designated survey site. If you own or can borrow chest waders or hip boots, please bring them. Wood turtles most likely will be in the streams in April (they "hibernate" there), and someone in each party may have to get into the stream. Long-handled dip nets also will be provided.

For those of you who prefer a more traditional spring meeting experience, alternative local field trips will be available on Saturday. Bring your children. No pets please. We will provide all participants with "wood turtle" T-shirts designed specifically for this occasion.

Please RSVP by Friday, April 2, by letter or phone, and tell us:

1. Do you plan to attend the meeting?
2. How many in your party? Number participating in wood turtle survey (survey planning purposes)?
3. Can you volunteer to drive your group (3-4)?
4. How many meals do you plan to enjoy? For how many mouths (see #2). Please be accurate, says Bob Hogan, meal organizer! WE CANNOT INCLUDE THOSE WHO DO NOT CALL AHEAD!!!
5. Sizes (S, M, L, XL) and #'s of T-shirts you want.

Please remember to bring cameras, chest waders (or hip boots) and to save your gasoline receipts! Come and join the fun!

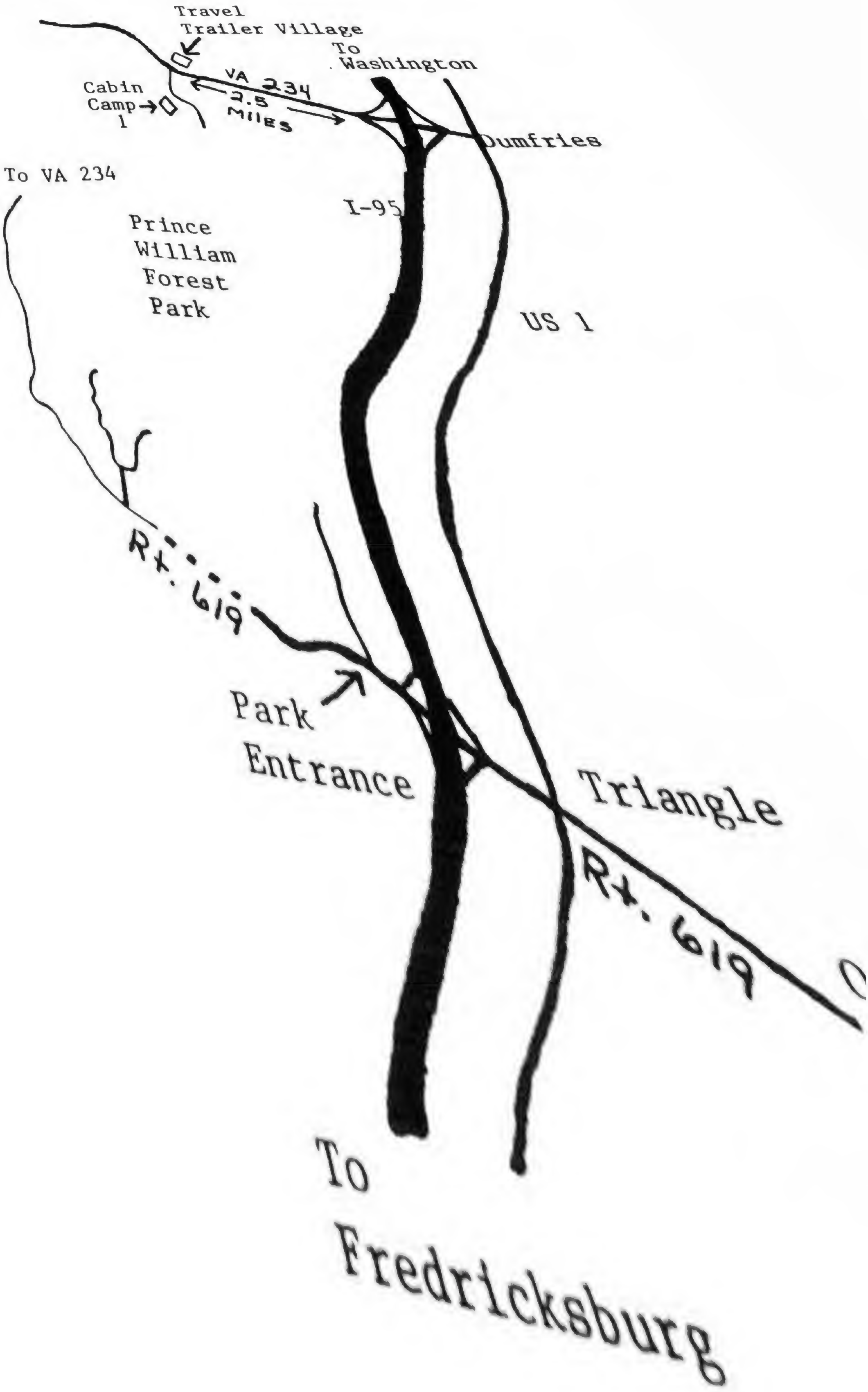
Directions:
Prince William Forest Park is located west of I-95 immediately north of Quantico Marine Base in Prince William County. Take the Dumfries exit (VA Rt. 234) west for 2.5 miles. Look for the Travel Trailer Village on left. Immediately after this will be a gravel road that leads to PWFP Cabin 1. Follow PWFP and VHS signs to camp kitchen hall.

For more Information and to RSVP please contact:

Joseph C. Mitchell, Dept. of Biology, University of Richmond, Richmond, VA 12173. 804-289-8234 or 804-740-7453.

or

Sue Bruenderman, VA Dept. of Game and Inland Fisheries, 2206 S. Main Street, Blacksburg, VA 24060. 703-552-6992.



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

I wish to _____ initiate _____ renew membership in the Virginia Herpetological Society for the year 19_____.

___ I wish only to receive a membership list. Enclosed is $1.00 to cover the cost.

Name _____

Address _____

_____ Phone _____

Dues Category: ___ Regular ___ Family ___ Under 18 ___ Life
($10.00) ($12.50) ($6.00) ($150)

Interests: ___ Reptiles ___ Amphibians ___ Captive Husbandry
___ Distribution ___ Research
___ Specifically _____

Make checks payable to the Virginia Herpetological Society and send to the treasurer: Ronald Southwick, 408 Franklin Drive, Blackburg, VA 24060

Field Notes

This section provides a means of publishing natural history information on Virginia's amphibians and reptiles that does not lend itself to full-length articles. Observations on geographic distribution, ecology, reproduction, phenology, behavior, and other areas are welcomed. Reports can be on single species or fauna from selected areas, such as a state park or county. The format of the reports is species' scientific name (common name): State abbreviation: County, locality. Date. Observer(s) or collector(s). Report or observations given one line below the data mentioned above. Author(s) name and address are given one line below the report or observation. Consult published notes or the editor if your information does not readily fit this format.

If the note contains information on geographic distribution, a voucher specimen or color slide should be sent for verification and deposited in a permanent museum or sent to the Virginia Herpetological Society. Species identification for observational records should be verified by a second person.

The correct citation format: Tobey, F.J. 1989. Field notes: *Coluber constrictor constrictor*. *Catesbeiana* 9(2):35.

Herpetological Artwork

Herpetological artwork is welcomed. If the artwork has been published elsewhere, we will need to obtain copyright before we can use it in an issue. We need drawings and encourage members to send us anything appropriate, especially their own work.